

Claims Listing for U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/988,811
entitled, "Initiation of an Information Transaction Over a Network Via a Wireless Device"

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CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for conducting an information transfer via a distributed network, the method comprising the steps of:

storing an information account in a central data repository that is accessible via the distributed network, the information account containing comprising a plurality of consumer information elements associated with a consumer and that can be accessed accessible by an authorized user;

receiving via the distributed network a promotion code from a remote wireless client device;

in response to receiving the promotion code, querying a database for data associated with the promotion code; and

transferring the data into the information account for future access thereof by the authorized user.

2. (Original) A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the promotion code received from the wireless client device is accompanied by user authentication information and

wherein the method further comprises the step of authenticating the user based on the user authentication information prior to querying the database.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the promotion code received from the wireless client device is accompanied by an equipment identifier that uniquely identifies the wireless client device; and

wherein the method further comprises the step of authenticating the wireless client device based on the equipment identifier prior to querying the database.

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5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the database is maintained on behalf of a vendor and [[is]] accessible via the distributed network; and wherein the data associated with the promotion code relates to a product or service offered by the vendor.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the promotion code appears in promotional material regarding the product or service.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transferring the data into the information account comprises the step of communicating with a database management system configured to access the information account.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of querying the database comprises the step of communicating with a database management system configured to access the database.

9 - 42. (Cancelled)

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43. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating the transfer of information via a distributed network, comprising:

a central data repository comprising a first information account and a second information account, accessible via the distributed network, the first information account and the second information account comprising a plurality of consumer information;

a database comprising a plurality of codes, each of said codes associated with a set of data;

a network interface for receiving, via the distributed network, a code from a first remote client device in connection with a first information transfer request and for receiving said code from a second remote client device in connection with a second information transfer request;

a processor configured to respond to receiving said first information transfer request by retrieving the data associated with said code from said database and transferring the data into said first information account for subsequent access of the data by a first authorized user, and to respond to receiving said second information transfer request by retrieving the data associated with said code from said database and transferring the data into said second information account for subsequent access of the data by a second authorized user.

44. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 43, wherein said first information account is maintained, ~~on behalf of, and accessible, [[to]] and modifiable by, the an operator of~~ said first remote client device, and wherein said second information account is maintained, ~~on behalf of, and accessible, [[to]] and modifiable by, the an operator of~~ said second remote client device.

45. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 43, wherein said code comprises a promotion code ~~which is~~ published by a vendor, and wherein the data associated with the code comprises information relating to a product or service offered by the vendor.

46. (Original) The system of claim 43, wherein at least one of said first remote client device and second remote client device comprises a wireless device communicating its information transfer request via a wireless application gateway.

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47. (Original) The system of claim 46, wherein the wireless device comprises either a wireless telephone, a wireless personal digital assistant, or a wireless two-way pager.

48. (Original) The system of claim 43, wherein said network interface is further configured to receive first authentication information from said first remote client device and second authentication information from said second remote client device; and

wherein said processor is further configured to perform authentication checks, based upon said first authentication information and said second authentication information, prior to transferring the data into said first information account and said second information account, respectively.

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49 - 59. (Cancelled)

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60. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for facilitating transactions via a distributed network, the method comprising the steps of:

maintaining an information account in a central data repository that is accessible via the distributed network on behalf of a consumer, the information account containing comprising a plurality of consumer information elements that are accessible and modifiable by the consumer;

receiving an instruction from the consumer via a thin client device ~~indicating a desire by the consumer~~ to perform a transaction;

interacting with a vendor server to request the transaction on behalf of the consumer;

accessing the information account to retrieve a payment identifier and providing the payment identifier to the vendor server to complete the transaction; and

receiving an acknowledgment from the vendor server indicating that the transaction has been completed and storing the acknowledgment in the information account.

61. (Original) The method of claim 60, further comprising the step of receiving consumer preferences for the transaction from the thin client device; and

wherein the step of interacting with the vendor server to request the transaction on behalf of the consumer comprises communicating the consumer preferences to the vendor server.

62. (Original) The method of claim 60, further comprising the step of retrieving consumer preferences for the transaction from the information account; and

wherein the step of interacting with the vendor server to request the transaction on behalf of the consumer comprises communicating the consumer preferences to the vendor server.

63. (Original) The method of claim 60, wherein the instruction from the thin client device further comprises authentication information; and

wherein the method further comprises the step of authenticating the consumer based on the authentication information prior to interacting with the vendor database on behalf of the consumer.

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64. (Original) The method of claim 63, wherein the authentication information comprises consumer authentication information; and

wherein the step of authenticating the consumer comprises the step of verifying the consumer authentication information.

65. (Original) The method of claim 63, wherein the authentication information comprises an equipment identifier that uniquely identifies the thin client device; and

wherein the step of authenticating the consumer comprises the step of verifying the equipment identifier.

66. (Original) The method of claim 60, wherein the transaction involves a vendor providing a product or service to the consumer.

67. (Original) The method of claim 60, wherein the transaction involves receiving at least one data file from the vendor server and storing the data file in the information account.

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